

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Miguel ESTEVEZ et al.
 Filed: Filed Concurrently Herewith
 Title of Invention: METHOD OF CODING ARTEFACTS REDUCTION

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13-16 by rewriting the same as follows:

5. (Amended) Method according to claim 2, **characterized in that** said deblocking filtering is performed separately for horizontal and vertical borders of neighbouring blocks.